The Magi







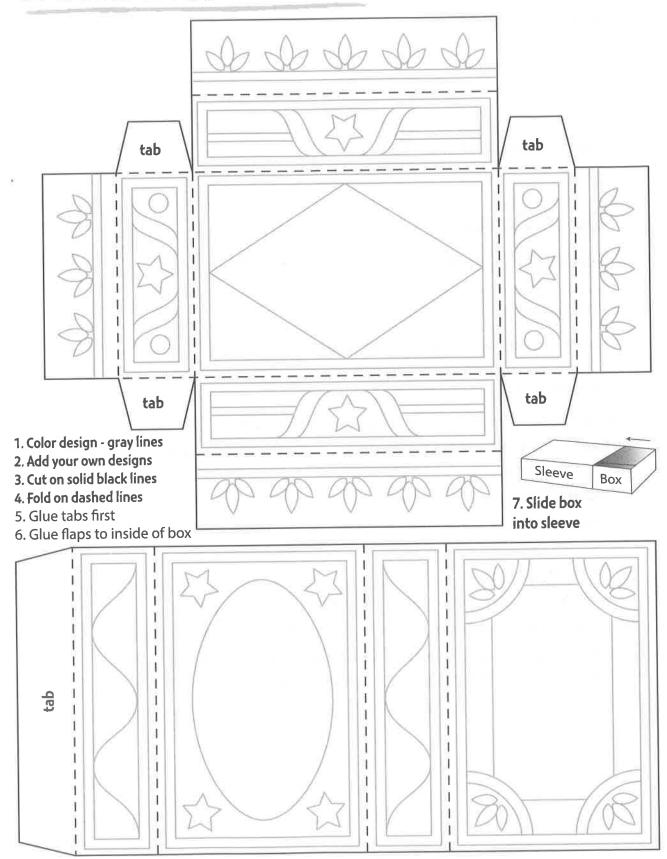
You Are a Star

Session 5

I can help others by... I can be a good friend by... I can be an example of Jesus by...

I can serve at church by...

CELEBRATE Gift Box



The Magi



Instructions

Read this article, and then respond to the question at the end.

Have you ever heard of Epiphany? Epiphany is a very old Christian celebration. It's even older than Christmas! Epiphany typically is celebrated on January 6 or the Sunday nearest that date.

It is the day when we celebrate the world recognizing that God had come into the world through the birth of Jesus.

After Jesus was born, the magi (also known as wise men) followed a star to find Jesus so that they could worship him and honor him with gifts fit for a king. No one knows for sure how many magi came to see Jesus, but most people think there were three because they brought three gifts:



gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The magi are thought to have been wise scholars who studied the stars and religious texts. Their recognition of Jesus as God's Son is remembered each year on Epiphany.

Epiphany is celebrated in a lot of different ways by people all over the world. In New Orleans, Louisiana, people celebrate the season of Epiphany with church celebrations that include Communion, singing, incense, and extravagant processionals. The Epiphany celebration in New Orleans is the kickoff to Mardi Gras, a pre-Lenten celebration. People in other parts of the United States also celebrate Epiphany. Celebrations across the country frequently include a three kings pageant as part of the worship service and a party after the service.

How do you think we should celebrate Epiphany?

The Magi

Three Kings

Instructions

Assign roles and retell the story.

Narrator: After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, magi came to Jerusalem.

Magi 1: Where is the newborn king of the Jews?

Magi 2: We saw his star in the east.

Magi 3: We want to honor him.

Narrator: When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him.

King Herod: (Pantomime looking troubled.) Gather all the chief priests and legal experts.

Chief Priests and Legal Experts: (Pantomime gathering.)

King Herod: Where is the Christ to be born?

Chief Priests and Legal Experts: In Bethlehem of Judea.

Narrator: Herod secretly called for the magi and gave them a task.

King Herod: Search for the child, and then report back to me. I want to honor him too.

Magi 1, 2, 3: (Pantomime nodding in agreement and then departing.)

Narrator: The magi followed the star and found Jesus in a house with his mother. The magi were filled with joy.

Magi 1, 2, 3: (Pantomime falling to knees and worshipping Jesus.)

Jesus and Mary: (Pantomime looking happy.)

Narrator: The magi opened their chests and gave Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Magi 1, 2, 3: (Pantomime opening chests and presenting gifts.)

Narrator: Later, the magi were warned in a dream not to return to Herod in Jerusalem, so they went home by another route.

